

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-20 are pending in this application, claims 7-19 having been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 14 and 20 are amended, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Support for the amendments can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 9, lines 2-4; page 11, lines 7-13; and in original claims 1, 2, 7, 14 and 20. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0008225 to Emura et al. considered with U.S. Patent No. 5,597,386 to Igarashi et al. The Office Action also rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Emura in view of Diamond et al., *Handbook of Imaging Materials*, 145-164.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of non-rejected claim 2. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter, and respectfully submit that, for at least the same reasons that claim 2 is considered patentable over the cited references, independent claim 1, its dependent claims 4-6, and independent claim 20 are also patentable over Emura, Igarashi and Diamond, individually and in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

II. Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims 7-19

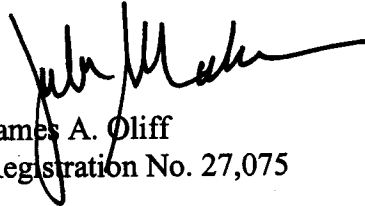
Because product claims 1, 4-6 and 20 are allowable for the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of corresponding withdrawn process claims 7-13 and withdrawn apparatus claims 14-19. Rejoinder is proper under MPEP §821.04 because the withdrawn claims "depend from or otherwise include all of the limitations of the allowable product claim."

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 4-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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